



ARIZONA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Commission Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DES Director's Conference Room

1717 W Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Michael Trailor, Co-Chair, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Melanie Starns (Sitting in for Co-Chair Clarence H. Carter), Department of Economic Security (DES); Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW); Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM); David Sherman, The Salvation Army, White Mountain Outpost; Jenifer Thornton, City of Sierra Vista; Karen Hellman (Sitting in for Charles Ryan), Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Pat Benchik (Sitting in for Will Humble), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS); Robert Halliday, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS); Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation (ABC); Ted Vogt, Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (AZDVS) and Terri Leveton, Nova Safe Haven.

Commissioners Absent:

Clarence H. Carter, Co-Chair, DES; Charles Ryan, ADC; Frank Migali, Department of Education (ADE); Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS); Tammy Paz-Combs, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF) and Will Humble, ADHS.

Staff Present:

Lynn Larson, DES; Raoul Sada, DES; Donna Bleyle, DES; Sean Price (Alternate), AZDVS; Karia Basta, ADOH and Priscilla Cruz, DES.

Guests Present:

Patti Caldwell, Our Family Services; Laurie Mazerbo, Our Family Services; Andrea Whitsett, Morrison Institute; Bill Hart, Morrison Institute; Julie Packer, South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO); Charles Sullivan, ABC Housing; Nicky Stevens, ABC Housing.

Welcome and Introductions:

Co-Chair Trailor called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes:

Melanie Starns called for a motion to approve the Tuesday, July 16, 2013 meeting minutes. There were no changes or corrections cited therefore the motion was made by Jennifer Thornton and seconded by Karen Hellman. The Commissioners approved the motion.

Committee Reports

Housing Committee: Co-Chair Trailor reported on this committee stating that the new housing locator tool, which has been successfully launched throughout the state, is receiving great feedback. In response to this feedback, the housing committee's first enhancement to the locator tool is to not only identify affordable housing projects within a targeted area but to also keep track of the availability of units at each property. The housing committee will be actively working on developing that enhancement.

Co-Chair Traylor additionally stated that there will be a demonstration table stationed at the 20th Annual State Homeless Conference next month to further develop peoples' interest in and use of the locator tool.

Homeless Services Committee: Commissioner Newsom reported on this committee giving a brief report on the coordinated assessment tool SPDAT (Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool). Commissioner Newsom shared some preliminary numbers on the use of the tool from the family side; no numbers were available as of yet from the single adult programs. During a two week period 41 families were assessed, of the 41 families (29 percent) required the intervention of emergency shelter (24 percent) were referred to rapid rehousing (32 percent) were referred to transitional housing and five percent required permanent supportive housing. Commissioner Newsom further noted that this tool may, in the future, give a better view to the correct size of intervention needed within a community.

Commissioner Newsom then discussed the two parts of the tool. The first part is the pre-screen which is to be used at the coordinated assessment site. The second part, case management, is to be used at the program site. Commissioner Newsom noted she has received good reviews from those utilizing the tool and shared her hope of utilizing the tool as a statewide homeless assessment tool.

Commissioner Leveton also gave a quick update of the SPDAT tool which is currently being utilized on the Human Services Campus as a pilot. She cited that in the single men and women category the tool is reported to be exceptionally helpful as a pre-screen to identify chronically homeless individuals and expedite them into housing versus shelter.

Donna Bleyle then informed the committee that at the Dedicating Opportunities for Ending Homelessness Re-Conference in Chicago last week, Maricopa County was the singled out as being the first county jurisdiction to have implemented or selected a common assessment tool.

Data Management Committee: Commissioner Williams reported on this committee stating that the goal of having a common assessment tool across the state is beginning to be realized and as Donna Bleyle stated, in Maricopa County the Continuum is working very well. The Data Management Committee is also looking into using a common HMIS tool. Charles Sullivan then gave a brief report about the use of the HMIS system and what measurement criteria will be necessary to measure the progress towards State goals.

Continuum of Care Committee: Co-Chair Traylor reported on this committee speaking about the evolution of the Continuum of Care, how they were originally formed to address various regional issues throughout the state, and how the Continuums are now developing a new attitude of collaboration between each Continuum in order to treat specific issues. Co-Chair Traylor also spoke of the importance of precise data collection which accurately represents the conditions in our state and the improvements we have made to end homelessness.

Studies and Surveys Committee: Co-Chair Traylor introduced the guest speaker for this committee, stating that in the summer of 2012 the Studies and Survey Committee organized a statewide survey of homeless individuals and families living on the streets and in emergency shelters. The goal of this survey was to gather information directly from persons currently experiencing homelessness in order to inform development of strategies and programs that would meet the needs of the populations we serve. Results of that survey were then provided to the Morrison Institute to provide a report that would then reflect the information in an actionable document that can be used for future planning and policy purposes. Bill Hart of the Morrison Institute then presented an overview of the report.

Morrison Institute Presentation – A NEW LOOK: A Survey of Arizona’s Homeless Population:

Bill Hart gave a brief presentation on the quantitative manipulations of the data given to the Morrison Institute from the homeless survey information generated from last summer’s survey. Bill reiterated that all the information garnered in this report is based upon self-reported data results and there may be some overlapping of outcomes.

Commissioner Spicker shared his thanks to Sean Price, Donna Bleyle, Karia Basta, Ken McKinley, Brande Meade and Amy Scwhabenlender for their participation and invaluable assistance over the last two years to get this survey accomplished. Commissioner Spicker also stated that this was a huge endeavor and took a lot of effort from a lot of communities and he congratulated the army of individuals who made this effort possible.

Co-Chair Traylor also commented that this survey covered a broad range of topics and the next step is to narrow the focus based on the data presented, and select three categories that could have the greatest impact on ending homelessness. After more in-depth analysis and research, the committee can focus on policy decisions and the allocation of energy and resources.

Announcements:

- Commissioner Newsom voiced her wish to see the Studies and Survey’s committee take a closer look at the ‘invisible’ homeless population.
- Commissioner Thornton requested advice from the committee on how to make contact with and handle the removal of homeless individuals on state lands. Commissioner Leveton inquired if there was a possibility of engaging these individuals and trying to place them into housing. Commissioner Thornton replied that education is the key and she would appreciate any and all suggestions to assist in this endeavor.
- The Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TCPH) Conference is scheduled for Friday, September 27, 2013.
- Commissioner Sherman suggested we pray for the homeless in Colorado, who are currently dealing with extreme flooding crisis.

Future Agenda Items:

- Commissioner Thornton requested more advanced studies utilizing different barriers.
- Commissioner Leveton would like to see updates from the Continuums at a future date.
- Commissioner Newsom suggested a presentation on upcoming legislature.

Call To The Public:

- Pattie Caldwell announced she was pleased to be invited to take a look at the SPDAT tool.

Next Meeting:

The next ACHH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2013.

Adjourn:

Co-Chair Trailor inquired if there were any further discussion items, none were issued. Co-Chair Trailor adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.